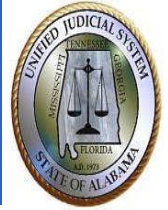




# AOC Newsletter



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## State Drug Courts Allow Families to Move Forward

By Robert Rygiel, AOC Court Services / IT Division



Alabama's problem-solving courts have become a refreshing, contemporary, and, most of all, beneficial judiciary. Since the advent of the drug court in 1989 in Miami, defendants participating in specialized docket calls throughout the nation have been introduced to a brand of justice that is interested in the individuals' wellbeing. Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb's agenda has been to deviate from "filling prisons" and shift focus to "fixing people," a view which aligns her with the fundamental principle of that first drug court.

From the time Chief Justice Cobb took office, the number of drug courts in the State has tripled and only continues to grow and progress. A recent addition to the problem-solving judicial system in Alabama has been to integrate family members into the drug courts. These family drug courts involve the Department of Human Resources, case workers, and the general drug court staff. The collaborative effort has allowed families to reunite after substance abuse has attacked and damaged the family dynamic.

Before the implementation of the State's drug courts, prison overcrowding became so widespread that new penal institutions emerged along with massive additions to existing ones. Overcrowding is still prevalent, but has slowed due to the fact that nonthreatening criminal defendants are no longer simply incarcerated. When they are returned to society after treatment, drug court participants can assimilate and begin chasing our shared long-standing vision of the American dream again.

The goal of a widespread, specialized judiciary in Alabama has nearly been met. These courts must continue in order to keep helping individuals achieve their dream of rehabilitation. As William Butler Yeats once wrote, "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."



Problem-solving courts do not tread on dreams at all, but rather, enable and revitalize those wishing to realize their dreams and move beyond their littered past.

*HAD I the heavens'  
embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and  
silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the  
dark cloths  
Of night and light and the  
half-light,  
I would spread the cloths  
under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only  
my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams  
under your feet,  
Tread softly because you  
tread on my dreams*

W.B. Yeats



## User Tips for July 2009

Do you ever wonder why you sometimes get many more results than expected when running a Terms & Connectors search in a statutes database (i.e., USCA or California Statutes Annotated)? This is because when you search an annotated code database, you search the language of the code itself, along with the annotations. Conduct more efficient statutory research with the following tips.

### **TIP NO. 1: Search Only the Text of Statutes Using the Text Field:**

- If you want to search only the language of a particular code, and not the annotations, then use the Text field to narrow your search. On your jurisdictional tab, below the Terms & Connectors search box, select the Show Advanced Options link.
- Use the Fields drop-down menu and select Text - TE(). You will notice that your Terms & Connectors search box is now populated with TE().
- Type your Terms & Connectors search in between the parentheses [i.e., TE (launder! /3 mone!)], and select your database (i.e., USCA). This search will retrieve only statutes that have any form of the word launder within 3 words of any form of the word money in the text of the code. Thus, this search will retrieve statutes that discuss money laundering.

### **TIP NO. 2: Search Only the Title of Statutes Using the Title Field:**

- If you know that you want certain words to appear in the title of your statute, then follow the first two steps above. But, instead of searching Text -TE() from the drop-down menu, select Title – TI(). You will notice that your Terms & Connectors search box is now populated with TI().
- Type your Terms & Connectors search in between the parentheses [i.e., TI (launder! /3 mone!)], and select your database (i.e., USCA). This time you will retrieve only statutes that have our search terms in their title.

### **Tip No. 3: Search a Specific Part of the Code Using the Table of Contents:**

- It may be that you know that the statute you are looking for is in a specific title (i.e., Title 18 of the USCA), and you therefore want to search only that part of the code.
- On your jurisdictional tab, go to the database for the code you want to search (i.e., USCA). If the Table of Contents link is showing, then select that link. If the Table of Contents link is not showing, then hover over the database with your cursor, and the Table of Contents link should show. Then, select the Table of Contents link.
- Once the Table of Contents appears, you will notice a set of empty boxes on the far left side of the screen. For example, if you are looking at the USCA, then you will notice an empty box next to each title in the code.
- Check the boxes to select the specific Titles that you want to search (i.e., Title 18 of the USCA).
- Now, select the Search link at the very bottom of the page. You will be directed to a Terms & Connectors search box. But, you will only be searching the titles that you selected, not the entire code (Look in the box that says TOC Selections. It will tell you exactly what portions of the code you will search).
- At this point, you can run a regular Terms & Connectors search. You can also incorporate the Text and Title fields discussed in **Tips 1 and 2**.

**For more information on  
Westlaw User Tips,  
please contact  
Myra Sabel at the Law  
Library at 334-229-0580**

## Employee Recognition Program UJS Employee Years of Service for June 2009

**AOC** would like to recognize the following Employees who have reached a milestone in their career with the **Unified Judicial System (UJS)** by attaining the mentioned years of service. **Congratulations to each of you!**



# Congratulations!

Name	County	Years of Service
Sandra P. Ligon	Lawrence	30
Tanya S. French	Montgomery	25
Jayne C. Posey	Blount	25
Doris H. Hughston	Talladega	25
Roselyn Harlan	Jefferson	25
Jayne P. Melton	Limestone	20
Janet E. Price	Montgomery	20
Joyce E. Miller	Baldwin	20
Jean W. Burt	Monroe	15
Ernestine Sewell	Etowah	15
Jill Hawthorne	AOC	10
Heather N. Evans	Montgomery	10
John R. Lockett	Mobile	10
Michelle H. Anderson	Washington	05
Laura B. Phillips	Calhoun	05
Elizabeth A. Swift	AOC	05
Melanie J. Guy	Baldwin	05
Juanita B. Turner	Henry	05
Mary Faye McCall	Supreme Court	05
Thomas B. Harris	AOC	05

## Technology Tip!

**Q:** The Clerk's office just received a box of 10 motions (about 600 pages each, each one 2 inches thick) paper filed. The legal secretary said she had tried and tried to file them electronically, but could not because they were too thick. WHY could these motions not be eFiled?

**A:** The AlaFile system does have a 10mb limit per filing. However, the motions module in AlaFile is very flexible. Users may file their motion and any attachments that will fit up to the 10mb limit. If they still have attachments that go with a specifically large motion, that exceed the limit, they may file the rest of that motion under the motion type "Supplement to Pending Motion." The motion types are under the **Motions > File New Motion** options. We do recommend that the users take advantage of the scanning resolution settings of **Black and White - 200 dpi (dots per inch)** when they scan their documents in. We have found that this is the most common reason for documents exceeding the AlaFile 10mb limit. Scanning in Color and Grayscale will cause the file size to be overly large and possibly exceed the 10mb limit. Please note that we asked our programmers to test this 10mb limitation and they were able to scan in over 14,000 pages in a 10mb file when scanned in at the recommended resolution. Therefore, the 600 pages per motion should be well within the limit. I would also recommend that they try to keep each .pdf document they upload at a 100-page limit. This is something that we have asked the clerk's offices to consider when scanning into Alavault as well. This makes images easier to pull up. If they need assistance with filing motions, they may contact us here at **IT Support (1-866-954-9411 Option 1, Option 4)** and we will be happy to assist them. If they need assistance with getting their scanner resolution changed, they should contact their IT Professional who maintains their computer systems, as we are unable to assist them with their personal computers / scanners.

*Attn: Clerks*